

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

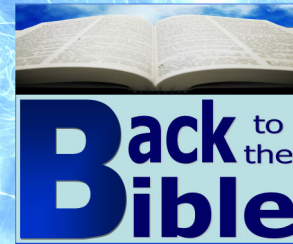
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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	20
Sunday AM Worship	32
Sunday PM Worship	n/c
Wed. Bible Study	20
Offering	\$2166

"A man is not saved and then baptized. A woman doesn't wash clothes because they are already clean. I've seen a lot of smart women, but not that smart. She washes the clothes because they're dirty. Man is baptized because he's dirty and needs to be cleaned." - - - Marshall Keeble

ACTS 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.



A Weekly Publication of the
West Jefferson Church of Christ
130 Robert Street
West Jefferson NC 28694
Phone: (336) 846-5615 | Email: info@wjchurchofchrist.org
Volume XIV October 10, 2021 Number 41

Minister:

Tim Canup
tim@wjchurchofchrist.org

Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKS
93.5 FM

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE BIBLE

Tim Canup

God has never done anything without purpose; He had a purpose for creating man, sending His Son into this world, His Son dying on a cross and He has a purpose for the Bible. We, therefore, have the responsibility to determine what God's purpose for Bible is and to use it properly, as Paul said at the end of II Timothy 2:15, "...rightly dividing the word of truth." The purpose for the Old Testament was to "bring us to Christ" (Galatians 3:24). What about God's purpose for the New Testament? That is what we hope to determine in this study. God's purpose for Bible was not for His own benefit, but for ours. Let us notice Paul's word's to Timothy in II Timothy 3:16, when he said, "All Scripture is given by inspiration and is profitable for..."

A PATTERN:

The Bible is a proper pattern for doctrine, which means teaching. John spoke the "doctrine of Christ" and emphasized how important it is for us to accept and support as well as reject that which is not the doctrine of Christ (II John 9-11). There are many in the religious

Continued Inside

world, and even in the Lord's body, who do not believe doctrine is important. Jesus emphasized the importance of it in His prayer of John 17 in verses 17, 20-21. Paul rebuked the division in Corinth because they had abandoned the doctrine (I Corinthians 1:10). Was doctrine important to Jesus? He warned, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravaging wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:15-16a; cf. 15:1-9; 22:29). There is numerous warnings of the danger of false teachers and the need to test or prove what men may be teaching (cf. I Timothy 4:1-2; II Peter 2:1-3, 17-19; I John 4:1; I Thessalonians 5:21; Romans 16:17-18).

The Bible is a profitable pattern for reproof. "The word {for reproof} comes from a word meaning 'convict, convince, or rebuke.' The word involves exposing error of false teachers and the behavior of moral reprobates" (Claiborne, ADL, 308-309). "The idea {of reproof} is that of 'convicting' or 'convincing' a man of the error of his ways" (Reese, 514). It is not simply making a charge of error, but providing evidence.

The Bible is also profitable for correction. It is not just the purpose of Bible to reprove (tell someone their wrong) but it also corrects. The word for "correction" means "restoration to an upright or right state... improvement ...of life and character" (Thayer). Reproof and correction go hand-in-hand. What good would reproof alone be? If a person were working on something and happen to be doing it incorrectly and someone who has a proper knowledge sees them about to mess up the thing they are working on, reproof would be telling them they are doing it wrong, and then correction is showing them the proper way to do it.

The Bible is our profitable pattern for instruction in righteousness. What does this phrase mean? God's righteousness is His laws, commandments and ordinances (Psalm 119:172). We are made righteous in His sight when we obey those laws (Luke 1:6). Paul's prayer for his fellow Jew was for them to be saved because they had not properly submitted to God's righteousness (Romans 10:1-3). "The word *instruction* is a translation of...a word which...would be better rendered 'discipline'" (Claiborne, 309). It is translated "nurture in Ephesians 6:4; chastening and chastisement in Hebrews 12:6,8.

FOR PROTECTION:

The Bible gives us protection from: #1, error, because we have a standard or pattern to gauge what is right. #2, The Bible gives protection from apostasy (Hebrews

2:1; I Corinthians 10:12; II Peter 1:5-11); #3, protection from the attacks of Satan (James 4:7; Ephesians 6:10-12); #4 protection from sin (Psalm 119:10-11). How does it provide protection? It gives us a sword with which to do battle (Ephesians 6:13-17; Hebrews 4:12).

FOR BASIC PROVISIONS:

It provides us a light in a world of darkness (Psalm 119:105). We all recognize the value of physical light in darkness, so how much more valuable is our spiritual light? The Bible provides for us proper spiritual nutrition. It is our spiritual water (John 4; 7:38) and our spiritual food (John 6, "I am the bread of life..."; I Peter 2:2; Matthew 5:6). It also provides us with the knowledge we need. It provides us with a proper knowledge of the Son (II Peter 1:1-3) and of the Gospel and God's Righteousness (Romans 1:16-17).

CONCLUSION:

The Bible has been given to us by God and it has a purpose, to provide us with the knowledge of the means of salvation that our God has provided to all lost humanity. It truly is our guide and our map to lead us to Him and eternal life. God has a purpose for giving us His Word. The important question is, Do you recognize God's purpose for the Bible and are you using it as God intended?

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward" (Psalm 19:7-11).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Oct 10 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship Service
- Oct 31 – Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- Nov 7 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class after Evening Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell